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Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

## **PRESS RELEASE**



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONTAINED IN OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT BOOKLET AND DEADLINES APPROACHING TO REGISTER TO VOTE AND TO REQUEST VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT FOR SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION IN 26TH STATE SENATE DISTRICT**

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) Dean Logan reported that the mailing of Official Sample Ballot booklets to voters for the March 24, 2009 Special Primary Election in the 26th State Senate District began on Thursday, February 12. "The Official Sample Ballot booklets contain important information for voters wishing to vote by mail and for voters going to their neighborhood polling place on Election Day," said Logan. The Official Sample Ballot booklets include information on the candidates and voting procedures specific to each voter's election precinct. Additionally, an application for a Vote by Mail ballot and the voter's polling place location and address are included in the Official Sample Ballot booklet.

### **REGISTERING TO VOTE**

Logan reminded residents in the 26th State Senate District that the voter registration deadline in the March 24 election is Monday, March 9.

Individuals who wish to register must be United States citizens, residents of the district, not in prison or on parole for conviction of a felony and must be at least 18 years of age by Election Day. An individual needs to re-register to vote if he/she has permanently moved to a different address, changed his/her name or wishes to change his/her political party affiliation.

Voter registration forms are available throughout the county at over 1,240 locations – including Department of Motor Vehicles offices, libraries, fire stations, post offices and City Clerk offices. An online voter registration form is also available through the RR/CC website [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net)

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by clicking on the *Secretary of State* link found under Resources on the main page or by calling the *Voter Registration Request Line* - (800) 481-VOTE (8683).

Registration status may be checked online at [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) by clicking the *Voter Registration Status* button on the main page or by calling the RR/CC at (562) 466-1310 or (562) 466-1323.

### **REQUESTING A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT**

Voters who wish to vote by mail have from Friday, February 27 until Tuesday, March 17 to request a Vote by Mail ballot for the March 24 election. Registered voters who would like to obtain a Vote by Mail ballot must submit a written request containing his/her name, residence address and address to which the ballot is to be mailed. The signature of each person requesting a Vote by Mail ballot is required in order to verify the legitimacy of the person who is applying for a ballot. Vote by Mail ballots can be requested in one of the following ways:

- Completing the Vote by Mail application on the back cover of the Official Sample Ballot booklet sent by the RR/CC to each registered voter;
- Sending a letter addressed to the RR/CC, Vote by Mail Unit, P.O. Box 30450, Los Angeles, CA 90030-0450;
- Accessing the RR/CC website at [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) and clicking on *Apply for Vote by Mail Ballot* in the Online Services box on the main page of the website and filling out a Vote by Mail application online; or
- Applying in person at the RR/CC Headquarters, 12400 Imperial Hwy., 3rd Floor, Room 3002, Norwalk, CA 90650.

If a voter has applied for a Vote by Mail ballot and has not received it within a week after submitting an application, he/she can check the status of his/her Vote by Mail ballot online at [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) by clicking the *Mail Ballot Status* button on the main page or by calling the RR/CC at (800) 815-2666. The range of remedies available to the voter includes 1) requesting a replacement Vote by Mail ballot; 2) voting at the RR/CC Headquarters through Election Day; or 3) going to the voter's designated neighborhood polling place to vote on Election Day.

In order to be counted, ballots cast by mail must either be returned in person to the RR/CC Office, delivered to any polling place within the district on Election Day during polling hours

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(7 a.m. to 8 p.m.), or mailed within sufficient time for delivery to the RR/CC by 8 p.m. on March 24 (postmarks are not acceptable). Additionally, the voter may authorize a designated family member to return the voted ballot to a polling place or to the RR/CC in accordance with the procedures outlined on the Vote by Mail ballot return envelope.

Under special circumstances, a voter may request an emergency Vote by Mail ballot from March 18 through March 24, by applying in person or sending a designee to the RR/CC Headquarters, 12400 Imperial Hwy., 3rd Floor, Room 3002, Norwalk. Additional information regarding this service or any questions regarding Voting by Mail can be obtained by calling the RR/CC Vote by Mail Section at (562) 466-1323, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays, or online at [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net).

### **VOTERS GOING TO THE POLLING PLACE TO VOTE**

“Voters going to their polling place to vote on Election Day are advised to check the back cover of their Official Sample Ballot booklet for the correct location of their polling place,” reminded Logan. “People tend to be creatures of habit. Voters have shown up at a prior voting location without checking if the location had changed.” To avoid confusion, Logan advises voters to check the back cover of the Official Sample Ballot booklet which is mailed to each eligible registered voter to confirm the correct location.

Voters who have misplaced their Official Sample Ballot booklet can access both the contents and the voting location interactively on the RR/CC website [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) and clicking *Locate Polling Place or View Sample Ballot* in the Online Services box on the main page or by calling the RR/CC at (800) 815-2666 and using the Interactive Voice Response telephone system to obtain polling location information.

Voters are encouraged to mark their choices in the Official Sample Ballot booklet prior to going to the polling place to vote. Further details about these services and other valuable election information can be found on the RR/CC website at [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net).

Persons requiring multilingual assistance in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog/Filipino, or Vietnamese, regarding information in the press release, can call (800) 481-8683.